



# WATCHDOG



*Guarding manufactured/mobile home owner rights*

August 2018

Congratulations to FMO State Board member, Russ Watson, Director at Large upon being named to the Manufactured Housing Consensus Committee at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Manufactured Housing Consensus Committee (MHCC) is a statutory Federal Advisory Committee body charged with providing recommendations to the Secretary on revisions and interpretations of HUD's manufactured home construction and safety standards and related procedural and enforcement regulations. This is the latest in a series of initiatives to expand the influence and advocacy of FMO both statewide and nationally on behalf of its members.

To date we have become members of the National Manufactured Home Owners Association (NMHOA) – with two FMO members serving on their Board of Directors. We are the lead organization in Florida for Washington DC based advocacy group Prosperity Now who we are working with on national issues affecting manufactured homeowners in Florida. We are forming alliances with Florida advocacy groups, such as the Florida Alliance for Consumer Protection and Florida Consumer Action Network that share many of our members' concerns.

We participated in the 2017 "I'M HOME" conference and the 2017 NMHOA National convention. We also participated in "Consumer Lobby Day" on Capitol Hill in Washington DC, presenting our issues directly to Florida members of congress, in conjunction with Consumer Federation of America.

We continue to regularly attend Sun Community workshops and are reaching out to organizations in communities owned by other large corporations. We have joined the effort to prevent the Public Utilities Commission from removing the regulation exemption for mobile home communities, we will exhibit at the Canadian Snowbird Extravaganza in January 2019, participate in the 2018 "I'M HOME" conference focusing on manufactured homes as solutions to affordable housing and the issues facing our members, and be represented at the 2018 NMOAA National Convention.

THE FOCUS OF THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY FMO IS SHIFTING  
TOWARD THE HOME OWNER AND ENHANCING THE LIFESTYLE."



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-8000

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HOUSING-  
FEDERAL HOUSING COMMISSIONER

**JUL 27 2018**

Mr. Russell Watson  
3204 E. Derry Drive  
Sebastian, FL 32958

Dear Mr. Watson:

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is pleased to inform you of your selection for appointment to the Manufactured Housing Consensus Committee (MHCC), to serve as a member in the user category. The MHCC plays a vital role in the development and maintenance of construction and safety standards, and regulations applicable to the manufactured housing industry.

The Acting Administrator for the Office of Manufactured Housing Programs is Teresa B. Payne. Should you have any questions, you may contact her through the following channels:

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Office of Manufactured Housing Programs  
451 7<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Room 9164  
Washington, DC 20410  
Telephone: 202-402-5365  
Fax: 202-708-4213  
Email: [Teresa.L.Payne@hud.gov](mailto:Teresa.L.Payne@hud.gov)

The appointment is effective as of the date of this letter, for a term of three calendar years ending December 31, 2021. The Department thanks you for your interest and commitment to public service on the MHCC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian D. Montgomery".

Brian D. Montgomery  
Assistant Secretary for Housing -  
Federal Housing Commissioner